

1923.

Boston Urban District

inter MB.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health.

BOSTON :

WING & Co. LTD., Printers, Bargate.

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Causes of Death in Boston M.B., 1923.

Causes of Death.						M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	109	110
1—Measles	1	
2—Whooping Cough..	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
3—Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
4—Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	...	...	...	...	...	5	13
5—Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
6—Cancer, malignant disease...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
7—Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	...		1
8—Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...		1
9—Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c...	...	...	...	...	...	6	11
10—Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	18	17
11—Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	
12—Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
13—Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	10	2
14—Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
15—Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
16—Appendicitis and typhilitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	
17—Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
18—Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
19—Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...		1
20—Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
21—Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
22—Other defined diseases	..	...	...	...	...	22	28
23—Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total				...	11	14
	{ Illegitimate				...	2	3
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	178	174
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	166	166
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	12	8
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	16,230	

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C. 2.

April, 1924.

Table X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1923.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1923, while those for the town have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1922. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total Deaths under one year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ..	19.7	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.44	7.7	69	92.0	6.9	1.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.4	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.12	0.09	0.22	0.40	9.9	72	92.2	7.2	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921) Adjusted populations 20,000—50,000	19.8	10.6	0.01	—	0.19	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.21	0.38	6.4	69	92.6	6.1	1.3
London	20.2	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.13	0.17	0.45	10.2	60	90.8	9.1	0.1

BOROUGH OF BOSTON.

Medical Officer's Report for 1923.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the following Report :—

1—General Statistics.

Area (acres)	2,765
Population (1923)	16,230
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	4,049
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	
Rateable Value	£59,676
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£219

2—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Births { Legitimate	332	166	166	} Birth rate 21·6
{ Illegitimate	20	12	8	
Deaths, ...	229	109	110	Death rate 14·1
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth				{ from sepsis, Nil ,, other causes ,,
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—				
	Legitimate 78	Illegitimate 250.		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				1
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)				3
,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age)				3

The Death rate and Birth rate, curiously enough, are almost the same as last year. There has been no particular disease incidence in the cause of death: most deaths having been caused, in any one disease, by cancer and heart disease.

The Illegitimate Death rate was high, five of the twenty illegitimate deaths having died under one year.

3—Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease					Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3	3	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	14	10	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	5	Nil	Nil
Other diseases generally notifiable, Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	4	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally, Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	30	Nil	Nil

The number of Infectious Diseases occurring during the year was considerably less than last year, and all were sporadic cases with no special case incidence.

Tuberculosis :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F	Pulmonary M	Pulmonary F	Non-Pulmonary M	Non-Pulmonary F
0						
1		1				
5	1	1	1	1		
10	1	2			3	2
15	2	2	2	3		
20	3	3			1	1
25		2	3	3	1	1
35	6	8	2	1		
45	4		1	1		
55	4	1				
65 and upwards...	1							
Totals...	21	19	3	3	9	9	5	4

Ophthalmia Neonatorum :—

Cases Notified	Treated At Home	In Hospital	Vision Un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
1	Yes	—	Yes	—	—	—

4—Causes of Sickness.

There has been no special cause of sickness. Chicken Pox has been fairly prominent, and it has been a notifiable disease for some months.

5—Boston Health Visitor's Report

for year ending 1923.

Homes visited and found over-crowded are not much improved from 1922.

Mothers are visited at an early date, and 42 cases have ordered and received milk through the Welfare Centre.

Expectant Mothers visited are 39.

Illegitimate cases ,, 30.

Notified Stillborn ,, 18.

Births notified in 1923 are 379 ; died in first year 17.

Families left the town with children born in 1923 are 36 visited. Addresses not given 20.

Visits paid to children born in 1923 are as follows :—

First visits ..	...	388.
Second ..	...	285.
Third and over ..	...	285.
		<hr/>
		949
		<hr/>

Visits to children born in the following years are :

1919	...	468	of these 95 are in school.
1920	...	686	„ 44 „
1921	...	344	
1922	...	725	
		<hr/>	
		2218	
		<hr/>	

Midwives, Uncertified, 29.

„ Certified and C.M.B., 1.

Health Visitors, 1.

6 – Maternity Work.

Welfare Centre.—During the year the Council has agreed to pay part of the expenses of the Welfare Centre in Boston, and I enclose the Report for the year.

Tuesday and Friday, 2-30 to 4 p.m.

Attendances registered by children, 2,085.

(Boston, 1,752 ; Rural Area, 333).

New Children attended Centre, 143.

(Boston, 121 ; Rural Area, 22.)

Sick Children seen by Doctor, 58.

(Boston, 48 ; Rural Area, 10).

Sick Children seen by Nurse, 47.

(Boston, 45 ; Rural Area, 2).

Necessitous Mothers supplied with Free Milk during Sickness, 84.

(Boston, 71 ; Rural Area, 13).

Sick Children supplied with Free Milk and Virol, 14.

(Boston, 12 ; Rural Area, 2).

Sick Children supplied with Free Medicine, 3.

(Boston, 3 ; Rural Area, 0.)

Lectures are given at the Centre once a month on Sick Nursing, Child Welfare, Hygiene or Housewifery, and are well attended.

A Savings Club and Outing Club are in existence.

Nurse Davey's Maternity Work :—

Cases attended during the year, 42.

Midwifery, 38.

Doctor's, 4.

(Boston, 35 ; Rural Area, 7.)

Visits paid to Patients, 593.

Anti-Natal, 56.

The Day Nursery is functioning in New Street, as before, and the attendance, if not up to the former year, is satisfactory.

Tuberculosis cases notified have been promptly dealt with by the County M.O.H. and his staff, and all arrangements have worked very well.

The Fever Hospital has been amply sufficient for all cases of infectious disease during the year, and all arrangements have worked very smoothly.

7—Water Supply.

The supply of water during the year, partly owing to the abnormally wet season and partly to the energies of the water engineer of the water company, I am led to understand that there is a considerably greater supply than formerly in the reservoir, and the condition of affairs is much better than last year.

Analyses were taken by me during the year and the water was found to be satisfactory. B. Coli were found in 100 c.c., but I have no doubt, with the mechanical filters in working order, that this will be eliminated before another report is written.

8—Laboratory Work.

Every opportunity has been given to Medical Practitioners to send pathological and bacteriological material to the Clinical Research for diagnosis, &c.

9—Sanitary Work.

Defective Drains remedied...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Drains trapped ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Privys converted into slop closets ..	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dilapidated slop closets repaired ..	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ash closets converted into slop closets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective ash closets repaired ..	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ash closet converted into water closet	...	...	...	..	...	1
Galvanized iron ashbins provided...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Filthy yards asphalted or concreted	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective privies repaired ..	...	...	...	...	...	5
Downright spouts taken off drains	...	...	...	...	...	3
Filthy and damp houses repaired, cleansed and ventilated ..	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pigeons spoiling water shut up ..	...	...	...	...	...	—

Chickens in small yards removed ..	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from smoke house abated	...	...	...	...	—
Piggeries closed	...	...	...	...	—
Urinals not properly protected	...	...	...	...	—
Drains relaid ..	...	...	...	...	2

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

New water closet for females put in	...	...	...	...	1
Closet unsanitary	...	...	...	...	1
Workshops limewashed	...	...	...	...	27

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	5
Cowshed drain trapped	...	...	...	...	1

Works outstanding and in course of completion ... 4

Vans inspected, the whole of which were found in
good order... 32

Licensed Slaughter Houses. Good order after inspection 23

Places where food prepared—satisfactory.

46 samples of New Milk were taken during the year and forwarded to Analyst. Several cases were deficient in fat, and one case was prosecuted as a test case, but the vendor was exonerated on the successful plea that he sold the milk as it came from the cow.

Houses disinfected : For Scarlet Fever	...	...	14
„ Diphtheria	...	...	3
„ Phthisis	...	...	12
			<hr/> 29 <hr/>

JOHN STEPHENSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

12th May, 1924.

10—Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

<i>a</i>	New Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	Alterations and additions to Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	Alterations and additions to Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
	New Shops	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
	New Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	New Motor Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Additions to Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>b</i>	As part of a Municipal Housing scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	None

1—*Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection :

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 10 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1920... .. | nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 10 |

2—*Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	10
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

3—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. —Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | nil |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :
 (a) by owners nil
 (b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil
 (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10
 (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :
 (a) by owners 10
 (b) by Local Authority in default of owners nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 & 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders nil
 (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil
 (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit nil
 (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made nil
 (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders nil

JOHN STEPHENSON,

12th May, 1924.

Sanitary Inspector.

11—Lodging House Returns.

Register No. and Situation.	Name of Keeper.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total
No. 8 Woodyard	James Bontoft	3394	721	Nil	4055

LEONARD JOHNSON,

Chief Constable.

